

JCS 1907/350

11 August 1961

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

POSSIBLE UPRISINGS IN EAST GERMANY (U)

The attached memorandum by the Chief of Naval Operations, Serial 00073760, dated 10 August 1961, subject as above, is submitted for the consideration of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subj: Possible uprisings in East Germany (U)

1. Reports of the increasingly heavy flow of refugees from East Germany give rise to speculation that spontaneous uprisings similar to those of 1953 may soon occur.
2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have previously addressed themselves to the problem of U.S. "capability to deploy and support special forces and guerrilla type operations in East Germany and other satellite countries should uprisings occur in these countries incident to U.S. military action in Berlin" in JCS 1907/331. This does not cover the broader problem of possible uprisings which might occur as the result of increasing political-psychological pressures connected with the Berlin problem but unrelated to any military action, nor does it consider the political actions which might be taken concurrently with U.S. military support. It is essential that, should outbreaks occur, U.S. political and military reactions be responsive and coordinated. Delay in decision as to a proper course of action could be disastrous. State-Defense collaboration should be effected now and pertinent policies be maintained current during periods of tension.
3. The question as to what politico-military actions could be taken by the United States in event of spontaneous uprisings in East Germany should be referred to the next State-JCS meeting for discussions leading to the preparation of a joint State-Defense position.
4. It is recommended that the Joint Chiefs of Staff discuss this matter at the next State-JCS meeting as indicated in paragraph 3 above.
5. It is recommended that copies of this paper NOT be forwarded to commanders of unified or specified commands.
6. In consonance with the provisions of JCS Memorandum of Policy No. 83, it is recommended that copies of this paper NOT be forwarded to U.S. officers assigned to NATO activities.

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7. It is recommended that copies of this paper NOT be forwarded to the Chairman, U.S. Delegation, United Nations Military Staff Committee.

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